

Honorable Hugh Crawford,

Dear Regulatory Reform Committee

Re: House Bill 4561

Let me introduce myself, David Williams, electrical inspector for Delta Township, in Eaton County. I am also adjunct faculty at Lansing Community College in the Electrical Technology Program. I have been in the electrical trade since 1974 when I started my apprenticeship program. I am a Michigan licensed Master Electrician and have worked in many facets of the electrical industry in the past 37 plus years. I worked for the State of Michigan, Department of Labor as an electrical inspector for six years before accepting the position at Delta Township seventeen years ago. I have served on the State of Michigan's Electrical Code Advisory Committee for the 1999, 2005, 2008 and the 2011 Codes. I was appointed by the Governor to serve on the State of Michigan Electrical Administrative Board. I have served multiple positions at the state, regional and national level with the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) supporting electrical safety. I serve the industry as a Technical Code-Panel Member for the national Electrical Code on Code-Making Panel 5.

Adopting the electrical code in a timely manner is very important for safety and for the advancements of new technology. We have been experiencing a fast changing world with the advancements in technology with all facets of the industry. The technology changes we experience at times create problems as well. The photovoltaic advancements have created great alternative energy opportunities as well as some fires. New products and safety features need to be designed to keep us safe. The 2011 Code has addressed those safety concerns for photovoltaic modules. It's unfortunate that the citizens of Michigan are not afforded the same safety features in the current code as other states. New codes often have new technology that requires new articles to attempt to keep pace with the changes.

Michigan has fought to gain to businesses. When new products and technology are introduced a company is likely to choose a state that adopts current codes that will ensure this new technology is installed safely and ensures efficiently operated facilities. There are changes to the electrical vehicle industry that need the new code changes to assist in the implementation of electrical vehicles in our state. Why would Michigan stand in the way of our future?

Wind Systems is another new advancement in alternative energy. The 2011 National Electrical Code has a new article to address the installations and safety features. An electrical inspector needs up-to-date codes to address the installation of systems involving wind energy, such as turbines. Failure to stay current would create delays, would the inspector require a third party evaluation since we have no standards in Michigan to address this new technology.

The Regulatory Reform Committee is fortunate to have members that also serve on the Energy and Technology Committee. Representatives Franz, McBroom, Shirkey, Opsommer,

Melton and the Chair Representative Crawford are well familiar with the changes in energy and technology and the need to stay on the cutting edge.

We are presently still on the 2008 Michigan Electrical Code utilizing the 2008 National Electrical Code. The 2011 code was published in September 2010. The proposals for the 2008 edition had to be submitted by November 2005. We are nearing 2012 and the code requirements in Michigan are based on technology that is at least six years old, from 2005.

When a new code is published there are various organizations that travel across the country providing training for electricians, contractors and inspectors. This brings in thousands of dollars in revenue to the states they provide classes for. Michigan is not on their list of areas to visit because Michigan does not make code adoption a priority. This is lost revenue that the state is missing.

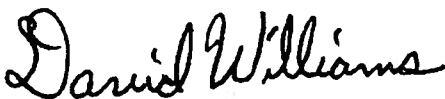
The electrical industry in Michigan has little impact on submitting proposals for the new codes because often they have not seen the current code before the deadline to submit proposals for the next edition. November 4, 2011 is the deadline to submit a proposal to make a change for the 2014 code. Most people in Michigan have no idea what the cover of the 2011 code looks like, let alone to suggest a change.

There are a few reasons I left working for the State of Michigan as an electrical inspector. One of the main reasons was to be able to adopt a code in a timely manner. When I went to Delta Township we adopted the 1996 code in the year it was designed for. In 2000 a single state construction code was signed into law. This was a great idea for everyone to be on the same code and no local amendments. Unfortunately the state does not adopt the code in a timely manner.

The National Electrical Code covers all installations including residential. If Michigan could go back to using the NEC for residential over two million dollars could be saved by citizens, businesses, and government that have to purchase a book that only partially covers residential applications. There are well over 26,000 electricians in Michigan not counting inspectors and by not purchasing the Michigan Residential Code book at a cost in excess of \$80.00 a lot of money could be saved. By having two different and often similar codes to use it creates confusion among installers and inspectors.

In closing, I plead to all of you to consider leaving the code adoption at a three year cycle and to assist in helping moving our state forward and providing citizens in the State of Michigan with the level of electrical safety they deserve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Williams

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